



HANDCUFFED SEGREGATIONISTS, eight of 16 arrested, march past county courthouse to U.S. courthouse in Knoxville. From left are William Brakebill,

J. C. Cooley, Reverend Alonzo Bullock, a reporter, John B. Long (holding jacket), W. H. Till, Cleo Nelson, Mrs. Zella Nelson and her husband Henson Nelson.

BOLDEST MOVE YET TO ENFORCE INTEGRATION

Federal government moves in as judge orders mass arrests to halt school disorders in Clinton, Tenn.

Toward the federal courthouse in Knoxville, Tenn. last week walked seven men and a woman. With eight others they had been arrested by U.S. marshals for criminal contempt of court as a federal judge moved to quell a new outbreak over school integration at nearby Clinton. It was the kind of direct federal intervention the South was most prepared to resent—and an action which the administration, hopeful that integration could be handled at the local level, had taken slowly and reluctantly. But with the arrests, the U.S. government had made the boldest move yet to enforce compliance with the Supreme Court edict against school segregation.

Clinton's troubles had begun in August when the high school, under federal court order, admitted its first Negro students. Although few Clinton citizens liked integration, most were ready to accept it as law until an outside agitator, John Kasper, hit town to organize a resistance movement. He was quickly arrested but in his wake anti-Negro riots broke out and only National Guardsmen brought peace to the town (LIFE, Sept. 10, 17). For a few weeks after that, integrated classes met smoothly.

The new trouble began brewing last month when Kasper came to trial

in Clinton on charges of sedition and was speedily acquitted by the local jury. (He still faces a one-year sentence for contempt of federal court and is out on bail pending his appeal.) Emboldened by Kasper's acquittal, his followers set out afresh to thwart integration.

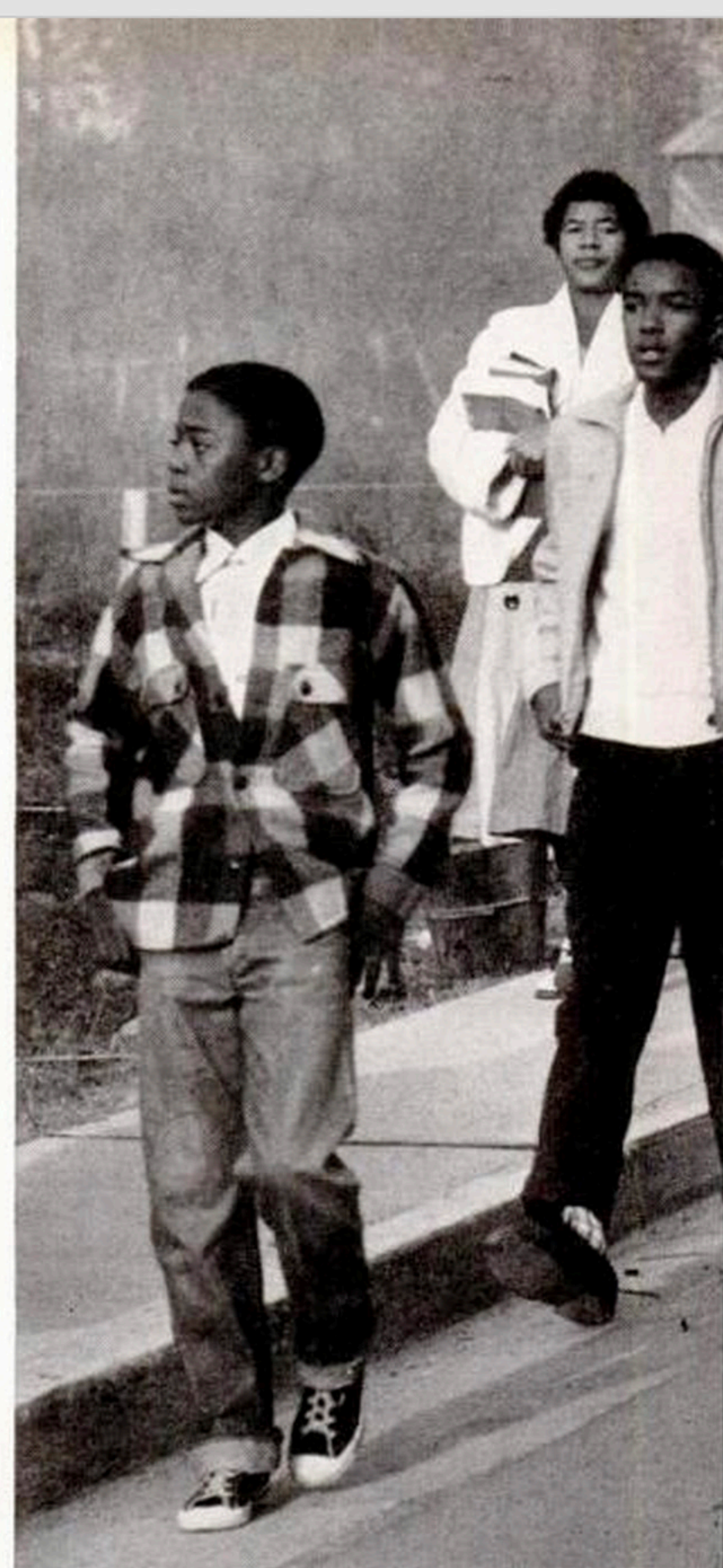
This time white students, organized as a White Youth Council, took the lead. They hurled epithets at the Negro girls, jostled Negro boys and girls in school corridors and pelted them with eggs and stones. The harassed principal, D. J. Brittain, tried in vain to cope with the trouble. Once again, as they had in September, the school's 12 Negro students decided to stay home until they felt they would be safe in class.

With that, the stage was set for the climactic scene of Clinton's latest trouble. The white minister of the First Baptist Church said he would escort the Negroes back to school last Tuesday. What followed is shown on the next pages. But even as the minister made his move, other citizens of Clinton made clear their own stand on integration under law. In a local election they sent to overwhelming defeat a candidate for mayor and two candidates for alderman who were outspoken pro-segregationists.



BEGINNING HIS MISSION, Reverend Paul Turner (right), accompanied by Leo Burnette, heads up

the hill toward Negro section. From sidewalk Clyde Cook (left), who was later arrested, harangues him.



ESCORTING THE NEGROES, five who risked going back to school, Turner (second from right) with



BEFORE THE ATTACK Turner (wearing hat) asked policeman to take names of his taunters. Minutes later, with no policemen around, Turner was attacked.



MARKS OF BATTLE, bloodstains were left on this car by Turner when he fell against it while being beaten and kicked by the furious crowd, including a woman.

MINISTER'S BRAVERY AND VIOLENT RESULT

When the Reverend Paul Turner announced that he would escort the Negro students to school, threatening telephone calls warned him not to. He did anyway and, with the students safely inside, returned to face his taunters. They jeered him, then, when he walked beyond

police protection, he was viciously attacked. Shortly after the minister's bloody scuffle, two white boys dashed into the school, looking for Negroes. They jostled Principal D. D. Brittain's wife and dared Brittain to fight. Brittain ordered school dismissed until further notice.



white friends and reporter walks toward school. Although townsmen jeered at them, the group moved

unmolested to school. Students entered, amid cat-calls from white students, and Turner walked away.



QUICKLY ARRESTED after leading attack on the minister, Clyde Cook is led into the Clinton city jail.

Then he led a delegation to Knoxville. There he pleaded with Federal Judge Robert Taylor for help. Taylor issued arrest warrants for 16 segregationists. By the end of the week all 16 were free on bail but under orders to leave school and students alone. Clinton's school

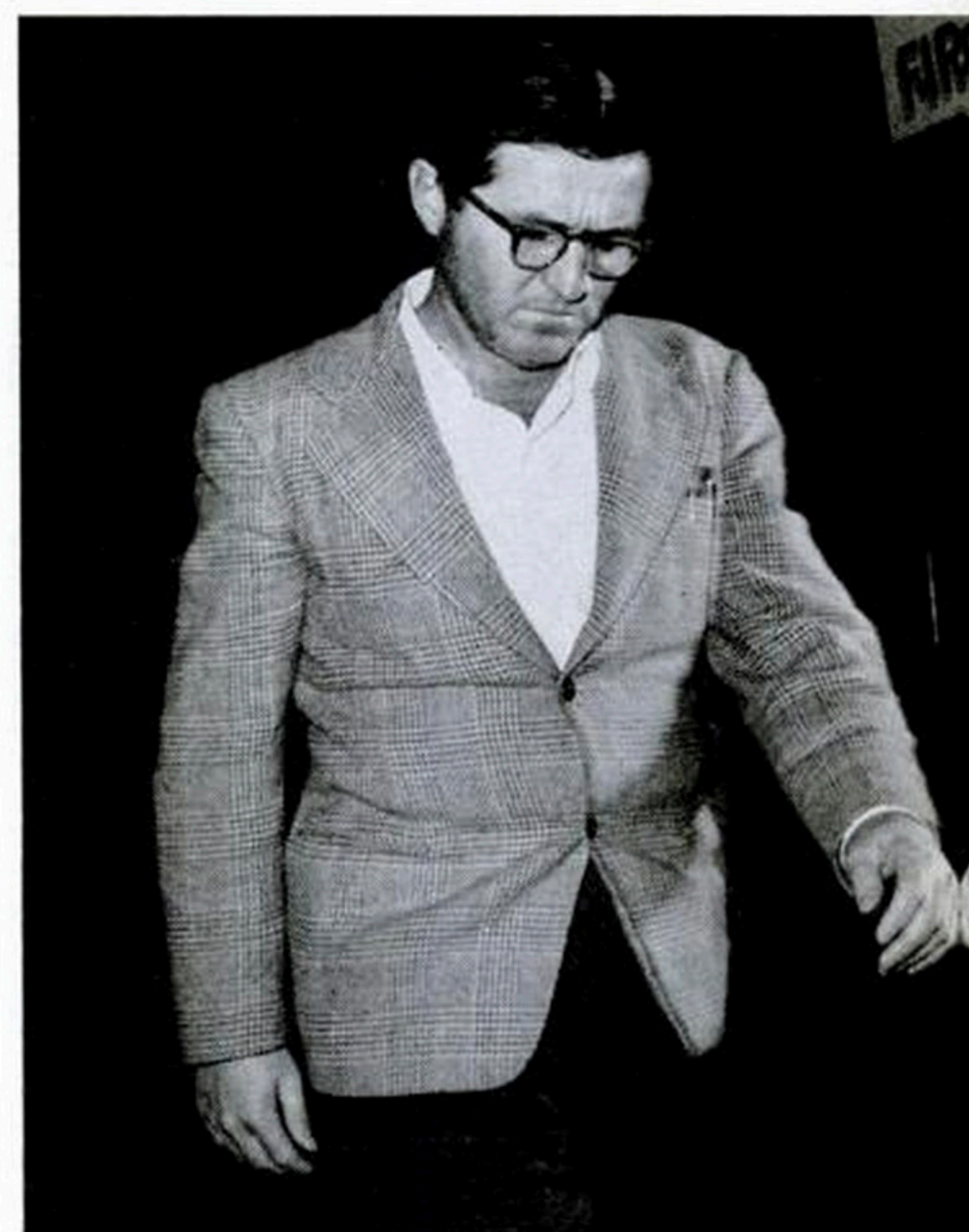


AFTER THE BATTLE Reverend Turner, his face cleaned and injuries treated by doctor, walks home.

board and faculty, meeting to lay plans to re-open their troubled school, found some of the town's leading citizens eager to address the students on the importance of making integration work. In their determination, reinforcing Judge Taylor's action, lay Clinton's best hope.



AGGRESSIVE, Raymond Wood starts after LIFE's Photographer Don Cravens—but he stopped short.



SUBMISSIVE, Wood, as one of the 16 under arrest, later walks somberly into the city jail at Clinton.



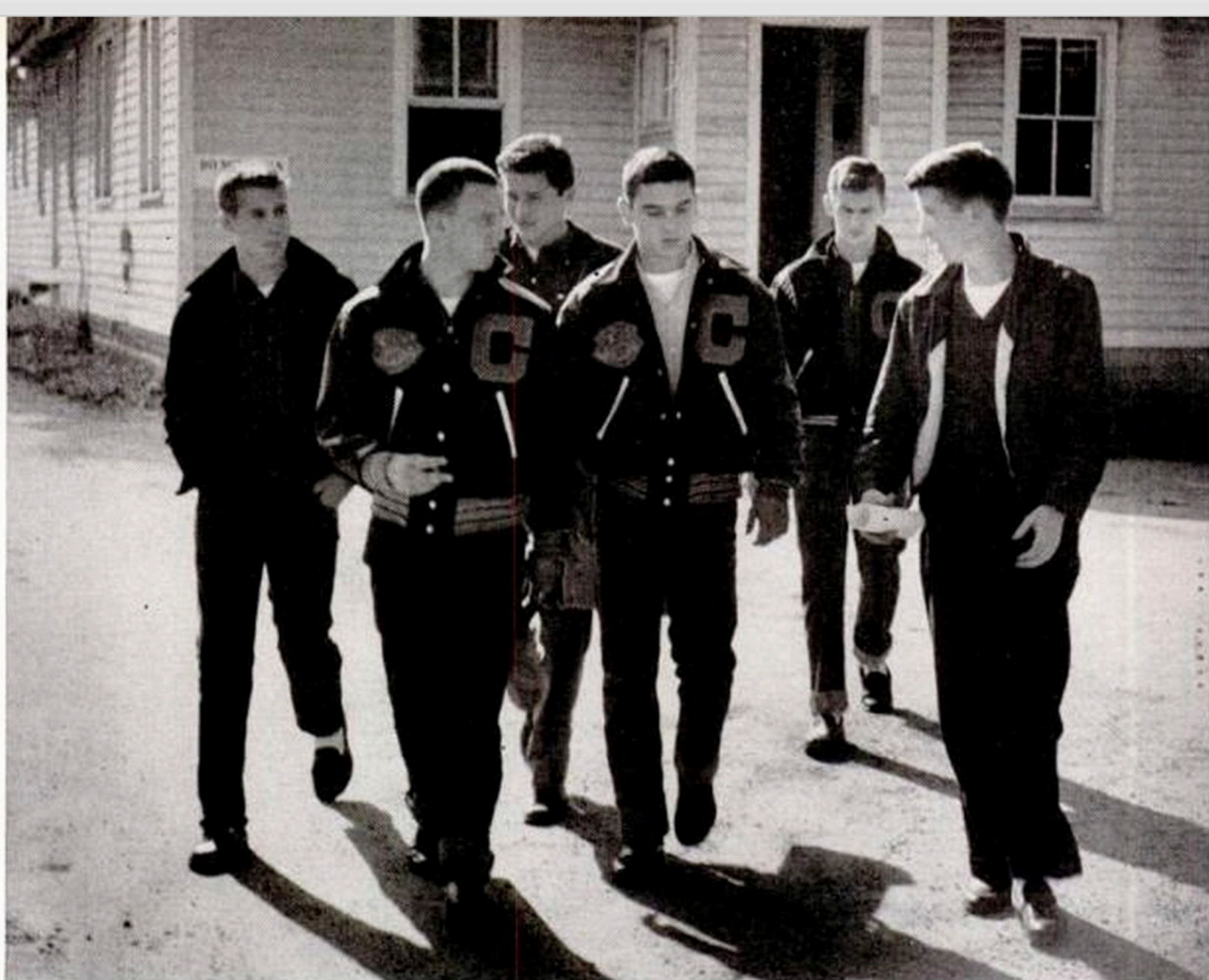
ANGRY JUDGE Robert Taylor walks to court with Court Crier James Smith. "The law," he said, "has to be enforced." He threatened to revoke bail if defendants stirred up more trouble even on telephone.



RINGLEADER, W. H. Till, head of Clinton White Citizens Council, arrives at the courthouse. He was carrying pistol when arrested but insisted it was to protect himself. He was released on \$12,000 bail.



INEPT PROPAGANDIST, Joseph Diehl strode into Judge Taylor's courtroom with anti-Semitic literature. He gave newspaper to U.S. district attorney, was arrested and searched (above). He got 30 days.



LAW-ABIDING STUDENTS led by Jerry Shattuck (second from left), head of school council, leave after they and other pupils passed a resolution asking school to reopen and comply with federal law.

VISIT TO A CELL brought defendant W. H. Till's wife and children to jail in Knoxville to see him before he was released on bail. The 16 defendants produced a total of \$109,500 in bail bonds.

